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Message Text

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64
ACTION IO-14

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9433
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TAGS: AORG, APER, UN, FR
SUBJ: INTERNATIONAL CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION (ICSC)

REF: STATE 176426

SUMMARY: MISOFF DISCUSSED COMPOSITION AND STATUTE OF ICSC WITH FRENCH REP NAUDY. WHILE NAUDY PERSONALLY SYMPATHETIC TO OUR ARGUMENTS, HE UNABLE GIVE GOF RESPONSE TO POINTS RAISED BY MISOFF BUT PROMISED DO SO QUICKLY. SIMILAR ARGUMENTS MADE SUBSEQUENTLY TO UK REP WHALLEY BY MISOFF IN INFORMAL AND PERSONAL DISCUSSION, BUT SHE WAS NOT RECEPTIVE.

1. MISOFF DISCUSSED POINTS CONTAINED REFTEL RE ICSC WITH FRENCH MEMBER ACABQ AND REP IN 5TH COMITE, AMB ANDRE NAUDY. PRIOR TO DISCUSSING SUBJECT, NAUDY TOKD MISOFF THAT, AFTER CONCLUSION ACABQ SESSION IN MID-JUL, HE RETURNED TO PARIS AND AT REQUEST OF FONMIN DRAFTED INSTRUCTIONS FOR FRENCH DEL IN 5TH COMITE, 28TH GA. IN PARTICULAR NAUDY SAID HE HAD DISCUSSED QUESTION OF ICSC AT LENGTH WITH FONMIN OFFICIALS AND WAS FULLY KNOWLEDGEABLE.

2. DRAWING ON REFTEL, MISOFF MADE MAJOR ARGUMENT THAT ICSC, IF PROPERLY CONSTRUCTED, PROVIDED BEST HOPE FOR DEVELOPING
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EFFECTIVE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM WITHIN UN SYSTEM AND THAT MEMBERS

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WHICH SHARE OUR MUTUAL DESIRE OF STRENGTHENING UN SECRETARIAT
HAVE OPPORTUNITY NOW TO MAKE IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTION VIA
ICSC ESTABLISHMENT. MISOFF SAID IT IMPORTANT TO US THAT
ONE OF THREE FULL-TIME MEMBERS OF COMMISSION BE FROM MAJOR
WESTERN POWER IN ORDER ENSURE CLEAR PRESENCE OF WESTERN
VIEWPOINT. IMPORTANCE OF ESTABLISHING THIS PRINCIPLE AT
BEGINNING OF ICSC, MISOFF CONTINUED, WAS OF IMMEDIATE
CONCERN TO USG.

3. WITH ABOVE AS BACKGROUND, MISOFF TOLD NAUDY US CONSIDERING
NOMINATING NOW AN AMERICAN FULL-TIME COMMISSION MEMBER TO
SERVE INITIAL TERM, AND THAT SUBSEQUENTLY WE WOULD BE
PREPARED TO SUPPORT FRENCH CANDIDATE, AND THEN ROTATE SEAT
AMONG OTHER MAJOR WESTERN POWERS. WE WOULD EXPECT, OF
COURSE, AMERICAN AND FRENCHMAN, WHEN NOT FULL-TIME COMMISSION
MEMBER, TO BE PART-TIME MEMBER. MISOFF STRESSED POINT THAT
US NIMINEE WOULD BE EMINENTLY QUALIFIED.

4. FINALLY, MISOFF ASKED NAUDY WHETHER GOF HAD ANY SPECIFIC
PROBLEMS RE DRAFT STATUTE FOR ICSC, ON WHICH WE WOULD
LIKE FRENCH VIEWS.

5. NAUDY RESPONDED THAT HE COULD NOT GIVE DEFINITIVE REPLY
TO POINTS RAISED BY MISOFF SINCE THEY WOULD HAVE TO BE
DISCUSSED WITH FRENCH PERM REP AND DIR OF UN AFFAIRS OF
FONMIN (LEPRETTE). MISOFF INTERJECTED HOPE THAT NAUDY COULD
COMPLETE CONSULTATIONS AT EARLY DATE, TO WHICH NAUDY
RESPONDED THIS POSSIBLE SINCE LEPRETTE ARRIVING NEW YORK
SEPT 16 FOR UNGA. WE AGREED MEET AGAIN AT EARLIEST OPPORTUNITY
TO CONTINUE DIALOG.

6. NAUDY SAID FRENCH DECISION NOT TO PRESS FOR FULL-TIME
COMMISSION MEMBER WAS DUE LARGELY TO ASSESSMENT GIVEN BY USYG
DAVIDSON THAT PERM MEMBERS OF SC MUST BE EXCLUDED FROM
FULL-TIME SPOT AND ACCEPT PART-TIME MEMBERSHIP. NAUDY
SAID DAVIDSON'S POSITION HAD BEEN ACCEPTED AS A "POLITICAL
FACT" AND THERE WAS NO DESIRE ON PART OF FRENCH TO ROCK
THE BOAT FOR FEAR OF A WORSE SITUATION DEVELOPING. NAUDY
EXPLAINED LATTER POINT TO EFFECT THAT FRENCH WERE EXTREMELY
UNHAPPY OVER THIRTEEN-MAN COMMISSION (TOO LARGE) AND SPLIT
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BETWEEN FULL- AND PART-TIME COMMISSIONERS. THEY FELT
THIS ARRANGEMENT WOULD BE MAJOR OBSTACLE TO ICSC BECOMING
EFFECTIVE BODY FOR DEALING WITH WHOLE RANGE OF SYSTEM-WIDE
PERSONNEL MATTERS. LIKE USG, NAUDY SAID GOF WAS INTERESTED
IN STRENGTHENING PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT WITHIN UN AGENCY
SECRETARIATS.

7. ON QUESTION OF ROTATING ONE FULL-TIME MEMBER AMONG MAJOR

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WESTERN POWERS, NAUDY SAID THAT, WHILE IN FULL AGREEMENT
RE NEED FOR WESTERN PRESENCE ON ICSC, HE CONCERNED THAT,
IF WE PRESSED TOO HARD, COMPOSITION OF COMMISSION MAY BE
WEAKENED EVEN FURTHER; I.E., NOT ONLY
WOULD OTHER PERM MEMBERS SC DEMAND FULL-TIME SEAT IF US
CANDIDATE FLOATED, BUT ALSO LIKELY THAT DEVELOPING COUNTRIES
WOULD MAKE SIMILAR DEMAND IN NAME OF EQUITABLE GEOGRAPHICAL
DISTRIBUTION. IF THIS MATERIALIZED, NAUDY EXPRESSED STRONG
PERSONEL VIEW THAT POSSIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING EFFECTIVE
COMMISSION WOULD BE DESTROYED AT START WITH LITTLE CHANCE
OF IMPROVING SITUATION LATER.

8. RE DRAFT STATUTE, WHICH DISCUSSED IN ACC, NAUDY STRESSED
RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN IT AND QUESTION OF COMPOSITION
OF COMMISSION. NAUDY FELT, IF MAJOR WESTERN POWERS CANNOT
FILL FULL-TIME COMMMISSION SEAT, THEN AUTHORITY AND
RESPONSIBILITY OF THREE FULL-TIME COMMISSIONERS SHOULD
BE GREATLY RESTRICTED VIS-A-VIS THAT OF PART-TIME MEMBERS;
HOWEVER, IF FULL-TIME SEAT CAN BE OBTAINED FOR MAJOR WESTERN
POWERS, THEN POWERS OF FULL-TIME COMMISSIONERS COULD BE
EXPANDED AND THOSE OF PART-TIME MEMBERS LIMITED.
MISOFF EXPRESSED AGREEMENT WITH NAUDY'S THINKING AND SAID
IT WAS FOR THIS REASON THAT US FELT SENSE OF URGENCY
IN OBTAINING VIEWS OF GOF ON QUESTIONS RAISED.

9. NAUDY DID NOT INDICATED WHO FRENCH CANDIDATE MIGHT BE (HE
DISCOUNTED NAME OF MAURICE BERTRAND WHEN RAISED BY MISOFF)
BUT IMPLIED GOF UP TO NOW HAD FOLLOWED LINE OF WAIT AND
SEE WHAT OTHERS MIGHT DO. NAUDY ASKED MISOFF WHETHER
WE HAD DISCUSSED MATTER WITH UK AND OTHERS, TO WHICH
MISOFF REPLIED IN NEGATIVE. HE ADDED THAT IT WOULD BE MOST
UNDESIRABLE FOR US AND FRANCH (PLUS POSSIBLY OTHERS)
TO PUT FORWARD CANDIDATES FOR ICSC SEAT AND LEAVE MATTER
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TO SYG TO RESOLVE; SINCE SYG WOULD BE RELUCTANT TO CHOOSE
BETWEEN TWO, MATTER WOULD GO TO UNGA FOR DECISION, WHICH
SITUATION NAUDY HOPED COULD BE AVOIDED. MISOFF AGREED,
SAYING IT WAS NOT OUR INTENTION TO BE PLACED IN SUCH POSITION
AND THOUGHT OUR APPROACH COULD AVOID THIS.

10. SUBSEQUENTLY AND DURING COURSE DISCUSSION OTHER MATTERS,
MISOFF IN LOW-KEY MANNER RAISED SUBJECT OF ICSC WITH UK REP
FIFTH COMITE WHALLEY, WHO STATED WITHOUT RESERVATION
THAT PERM MEMBERS SC CAN BE PART-TIME COMMISSION MEMBERS
ONLY, AND ANY ATTEMPT ON PART OF US OR OTHERS TO CHANGE
THIS APPROACH WOULD BE SELF-DEFEATING. MISOFF, SPEAKING
PERSONALLY, MADE SIMILAR ARGUMENTS WITH WHALLEY AS WITH
NAUDY BUT FOUND NO RECEPTIVITY OR ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF VALIDITY
OUR REASONING.

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COMMENT: WHILE NAUDY'S PERSONAL VIEWS LIKELY TO HAVE MAJOR IMPACT ON GOF POSITION RE COMPOSITION AND POWERS OF ICSC, AND NAUDY SAW MERIT IN AND WAS SYMPATHETIC TO US POSITION CONTAINED REFTEL, GIVEN POLITICAL VIEWS IN UN IT UNLIKELY THAT FRENCH WILL BE ABLE TO STRIKE A DEAL WITH US. THIS FURTHER SUPPORTED BY FACT THAT UN DIR OF PERSONNEL (GHERAB/TUNISIA) IS RUNNING A HARD CAMPAIGN FOR A FULL-TIME SEAT, AND GHERAB UP TO NOW HAS BEEN VERY CLOSE TO FRENCH AT UN.

IF WE ARE TO PURSUE APPROACH CONTAINED IN REFTEL, MISSION BELIEVES IT PRUDENT THAT AT EARLY DATE WE INFORM UK AND OTHER WESTERN ALLIES OF OUR INTENTIONS. SWISS NATIONAL HAS BEEN MENTIONED REPEATEDLY AS "WESTERN CANDIDATE," ALTHOUGH AS FAR AS WE CAN ASCERTAIN SWISS GOVT HAS NOT NOMINATED ANYONE. UNLESS WE KEEP OUR FRIENDS INFORMED OF OUR INTENTIONS, WE LIKELY TO FIND OURSELVES OUT ON A LIMB ALL ALONE AND IN PROCESS ALIENATE THOSE WITH WHOM WE MUST WORK CLOSELY.
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